Research Notes for Patrick Dempsey (1822 - 1898)

Overview:

Patrick Dempsey is well documented as a working man, husband, and father, even as his origins in Ireland remain unknown. He appears consistently in records as a stonemason, supporting a growing family through years of movement and instability in the United States. His life can be traced across multiple locations, likely moving to find work, marry, and raise children during the Civil War era. While the identities of his parents and siblings are not known, Patrick himself is not elusive. He is visible through work, household structure, and the survival strategies of his family, leaving a record that is substantial in substance even as it is silent on beginnings.

During the Civil War years, Patrick's family lived in Washington, D.C. In the years following the war, they moved repeatedly through the southern United States. Census records and children's birthplaces show the family in multiple locations during these years, consistent with movement for work rather than military service. There is no record that Patrick served in the Civil War. He remained with his family throughout the conflict, an outcome that is notable given his age, occupation, and residence in regions heavily affected by the war.

Patrick appears in an unusually detailed newspaper account describing his being struck by a train near Leavenworth, Kansas. Identified as a stonemason from Armourdale, he was struck after stepping back onto the tracks and suffered catastrophic injuries. The article records his removal to a hospital and conveys the gravity of his condition, but does not record his death. It also introduces confusion by attributing to him characteristics associated with another man of the same name, including references to military service and residence at the Soldiers' Home. No Kansas death record has been located, but Patrick does not appear again, and by 1900, his wife is enumerated as a widow. The accident, recorded by a reporter who was on the train, is the last event that can be directly attributed to Patrick.

Speculative Narrative:

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Timeline

1822 - Birth possibly at County Sligo, Ireland

Feb 1852– Origin Ireland[1]

Two entries for Patrick Dempsey appear in early 1852 records, but there is insufficient evidence to determine whether either refers to this individual. A DNA match to a Dempsey family living in Liverpool raises the possibility that he was there before emigrating, but this remains unproven.

9 Mar 1852 - Arrival at New York, New York, New York.[2]

19 Jul 1852 – Arrival New York, New York, New York.[3]

30 Aug 1852 - Marriage to Mary Kenney at Washington, DC.[4]

St. Patrick's Church - Matrimonial Register, 1807-1872, page 29: August 30, 1852, married Patrick Dempsey and Mary Kenny. Witnesses Augustine Kenny and Anne Welsh. /s/ Timothy J. O'Toole

[1] New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Year: 1852; Arrival: , ; Microfilm serial: M237; Microfilm roll: M237_110; Line: ;List number:

[2] United States, Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Passengers and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1957, SS Constellation, arrived 9 March 1852, p. 11, Line 23, Pat Dempsey, digital image, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island.), 1820 - 1957," Ancestry.

[3] See above

[4] Washington, District of Columbia County Court, Marriages 1852, Patrick Demsey and Mary Kenny, married 30 August 1852; FamilySearch Library Digital Collection 4258999, digital image, Catalog, FamilySearch.

5 Mar 1855 - Birth of son John Thomas Dempsey (1855 - 1936) at Washington, DC.[5]

10 Nov 1856 - Birth of daughter Mary Ann Dempsey (1856 - 1896) at Washington, DC.[6]

1857- Birth of Baby 3 Dempsey in Washington, DC.[7]

In 1900, her mother, Mary Kenney Dempsey, lived at 650 1st Street in Kansas City. According to the 1900 census, she was the mother of one living child and reported ten children born in total; stillborn children were not included in this count.

The census rules at that time did not count stillborn children among the total number of children born. This is why I have labeled some children as "baby 3" and so on. Six of these ten children remain unidentified.

May 1859 - Birth of son John Dempsey at Covington, Alleghany, Virginia.[8]

Apr 1860 - Birth and Death of son Patrick Dempsey (1860 - 1860).[9]

Recorded on the 1860 census in Covington, Virginia, 243 miles from Washington, DC. John is not on the 1870 census. I contacted St. Francis of Assisi Church 118 N. New St. Staunton, VA 24401

[5] Baptism Register, Aug. 1848-Sept. 1857. Page 176: March 8, 1855, Baptized James Thomas, born March 5, 1855, of Patrick Dempsey and Mary Kenny, his wife. Spr. Patrick and Bridget Welsh. /s/ Francis E. Boyle

[6] Baptism Register, Aug. 1848-Sept. 1857. Page 256, Nov. 20, 1856: Baptized Mary Anne, born Nov. 10/56 of Patrick Dempsey and Mary Kenny his wife. Spr. Philip Gilhooly and Anne Gilhooly. /s/ Timy. Jos. O'Toole.

[7] No source for child's birth

[8] 1860 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Alleghany County, Virginia, p.7, Dwelling 44, Family 42, Patrick Dempsey household; digital image, "1860 Unites States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[9] U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880, Ancestry

office@stfrancisparish.org Request: A copy of old family baptisms (Irish) - Fr. Tom Collins at Sacred Heart suggested I check with you due to the date of these baptisms.

1 Jun 1860 - U.S. Census at Covington, Alleghany, Virginia.[10]

Patrick Dempsey, 29

Mary Dempsey, 28

James T Dempsey, 5

Mary A Dempsey,

John Dempsey, 1

1862 - Birth of Baby 6 Dempsey in Washington, DC.[11]

12 Aug 1863 - Article about arrests in Washington, DC.[12]

"Two articles from a Washington DC newspaper prove the relationship between Michael and Mary Kenney:

Local News

"Assault and Battery - Patrick Dempsey was arrested last night for assaulting and beating Michael Kenney at a shop corner K and 1st street. Dempsey keeps the shop, and Kenney was one of his patrons. They were engaged in settling an account between them, and a question arose as to the correctness. It resulted in Dempsey striking Kenney with a weight and making two subsequent assaults upon him with the weight, in which Kenney was knocked down and was apparently lifeless. A friend interfered and

[10] 1860 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Alleghany County, Virginia, p.7, Dwelling 44, Family 42, Patrick Dempsey household; digital image, "1860 Unites States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[11] No source for child's birth

[12] "Brother and Sister," Evening Star, Washington, District of Columbia, 12 August 1863, p.2, col. 5; digital image, Newspapers.com. Provided by Theresa Liewer.

pacified Dempsey and took Kenney to a surgeon to dress his wounds. Kenney's lip was split, and three teeth were broken out of his mouth, besides other bruises on his head and face. Dempsey and Kenney are brother-in-law."

Brother and Sister - "Michael Kenny was arrested last night for assault and battery on Mary Dempsey, his sister. It appears that Mrs. Dempsey went to Kenny's house and asked for her husband to come home. But he, being averse to an immediate departure, delayed. Mrs. Dempsey grew impatient and exhibited her anger by declaring the house was a bad house. Michael Kenny went out to her and on the way, picked up a "bit of a stick," as a female witness called it, and struck Mrs. Dempsey on her head, cutting her severely. Justice Giberson held him to bail for court."

1864 - Birth of Baby 7 Dempsey in Washington, DC.[13]

1866- Birth of Baby 8 Dempsey in Washington, DC.[14]

Before 1870- Death of son John Dempsey at an unknown place.[15]

1 Jun 1870 - U.S. Census at Jefferson, Clark, Indiana.[16]

Pat Dempsey, 38

Mary Dempsey, 38

Jas Dempsey, 15

Mary Dempsey, 13

[13] No source for child's birth

[14] No source for child's birth

[15] No source for child's birth

[16] 1870 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Jefferson, Clark County, Indiana, p.398A, Dwelling 294, Family 313, Pat Dempsey household; digital image, "1870 Unites States Federal Census," Ancestry.

By 1870, the family had relocated from Washington, D.C., to Jeffersonville, Indiana, after more than seventeen years in the capital. The move places them across the river from Louisville, Kentucky, and marks a shift away from the locations where Patrick is most consistently documented.

1 Jun 1880 - U.S. Census at Lone Oaks, Bates, Missouri.[17]

Patrick Dempsey - white, male, age 50, born Ireland, father born Ireland, mother born Ireland

Mary Dempsey - white, female, age 48, born Ireland, father born Ireland, mother born Ireland

1 Mar 1885 - Kansas Census at Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas.[18]

Patrick Dempsey, 55

Mary Dempsey, 54

Nellie Dempsey, 4

1895 – Kansas Census at Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas.[19]

James Whalen, 42

Mary Whalen, 38

Patrick Whalen, 9

Mike Whalen, 5

Eddie Whalen, 3

[17] 1880 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Lone Oak, Bates County, Missouri, ED 159, Sheet 220A, Dwelling 156, Family 170, Patrick Dempsey household; digital image, "1880 Unites States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[18] 1885 Kansas State Census, Wyandotte, Wyandotte County, Lines 13 -15, Patrick Dempsey household; digital image, "Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855 - 1925," Ancestry.

[19] 1895 Kansas State Census, Ward 6, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, p.10, Dwelling 1702, Family 1727, James Whalen household; digital image, "Kansas, U.S. State Census Collection, 1855 - 1925," Ancestry

Wm Whalen, 1

Patrick Dempster, 62

Mary Dempster, 61

Nellie Dempster, 15

Geo Smith, 28

James Irvin, 19

1889 - Military - A Patrick Dempsey living in Armourdale was listed on a Kansas enrollment of former soldiers, reporting service in Company L, 8th Massachusetts Infantry. No such unit has been documented, and no corroborating service or pension records have been found.

1890 - No entry for Patrick Dempsey has been found in the Veterans Schedule of the 1890 census.

1890 - 1891 - Directory in Kansas City, Kansas. Patrick Dempsey lived at 916 Pyle.[20]

10 May 1896 – **Death of daughter Mary Ann Dempsey** at Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas.[21]

This article is unusually detailed because it was written by a reporter who witnessed the accident. While it clearly identifies Patrick as a stonemason living in Armourdale and documents his injuries, it also includes details—particularly references to military service and the Soldiers' Home—that likely belong to a different man of the same name.

[20] Kansas City, Kansas Directory, 1890

[21] Kansas City (Kansas) City Clerk, Record of Mortality, Volume A (1892 - 1903), p.71, Mrs. Whalen, died 10 May 1896. A Find a Grave memorial was created based on this information.

1898 - Accident on the train to Leavenworth.[22]

"Patrick Dempsey Run Over By Train And Badly Injured

Is 76 Years of Age And Lives at Armourdale

The accident occurred on the northwestern tracks about 15 miles out of town–it was a Maple Leaf train, in charge of Engineer Lent.

Patrick Dempsey, a man 76 years of age, whose home is at Armourdale, was run over by a Maple Leaf train yesterday morning at 11:29 o'clock, between Fairdale in Weldon, two stations between Leavenworth and Kansas City, and as a result of the accident he has a severe contusion over the left eye and a compound fracture of the left arm just below the shoulder. He lies in critical condition at St. John's Hospital in this city.

It was the Maple Leaf train, which arrives in the city at 12:07 and which runs over the northwestern tracks between Kansas City and the Soldier's home. The old man was walking along the track, the train was rounding the curve, and engineer C. L. Lent did not see him until about 200 feet from him. The engineer instantly blew the whistle and rang the bell, and Dempsey stepped off the track, but, becoming bewildered, he stepped back upon it when the train struck him. He was picked up by the trainmen and brought to Leavenworth. He was conveyed to St. John's Hospital, and medical assistance was procured.

A reporter for The Times was on the train and saw the accident. He noticed the vigorous blowing of the whistle and the clanging of the bell and looked out the window to ascertain the cause of the unusual procedure. He saw the old man jumped off the track, saw his face take on the look of bewilderment, saw him jump back on the track right into the arms of the engine of destruction. He saw the ghastly faces of the engineer and heard the agonizing shrieks of the old man as he yelled aloud in excruciating pain. The monstrous wheels slacking under the pressure of the lever and soon the train was still. The body of the man was carried into the car and the train pursued its way to Leavenworth. The old man suffered greatly, and there was no delay in moving him to the hospital after the train arrived.

W. E. Garvey, agent of the Maple Leaf, in speaking of the accident last night, said: "Dempsey is a stonemason and lives in Armourdale. He is in the habit of walking along railroad tracks. The man in charge of the train said

[22] "Patrick Dempsey Run Over by Train and Badly Injured," The Leavenworth Weekly Times, Leavenworth, Kansas, 28 December 1898, p. 4 col. 5.

that after they blew the whistle and rang the bell, he jumped off the track, but, losing his head, he stepped back on, right into the wheels. Dempsey was formally a member of the Soldiers' Home in Leavenworth."

Dr. Russell Phillips, who attended Dempsey, said last night that he suffered a great nervous shock, in addition to his wounds, and that while his condition was serious, it was not necessarily fatal.

Dempsey's relatives were communicated with, but at the late hour last night, and none of them had arrived.

Reported in the Leavenworth and Kansas Papers

December 28, 1898."

1898 to 1900 - Death assumed because his wife, Mary Kenney, was a widow on the 1900 census. She also states that she was the mother of 9 children, two surviving until adulthood.[23]

Research - Was there a coroner's inquest when he died? Would those records be a KSHS?

1899 - Burial in a single grave at St. John's Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. The rest of his family and many of his grandchildren are buried at this cemetery.[24]

[23] 1900 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Ward 6, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, ED 161, Sheet 14, Dwelling 299, Family 305, James Dempsey household; digital image, "1900 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[24] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVLH-Q1RG: 6 March 2021), Patrick Dempsey, ; Burial, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States of America, Saint John's Cemetery; citing record ID 90615568, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

Appendix:

A.

Patrick Dempsey appears in Washington, D.C., living in the same household as James Dempsey. Their co-residence raises the possibility that James was his brother, but no direct evidence has been found to establish the relationship.

Several areas of weakness remain in the record. Seven children reported by Mary Kenney Dempsey in the 1900 census have not been individually identified. Patrick's death has not been documented by a civil record, though he was critically injured in a train accident in late 1898 and does not appear again in the record. Claims of Civil War service are inconsistent and cannot be substantiated. His burial location is known, but the circumstances and timing of his death remain unresolved.

B.

Patrick and Mary Dempsey's Family During the Civil War

Mary Ann Dempsey, the mother of Edward Whalen, is the branch of the family that draws the most attention. She was born in Washington, D.C., shortly before the Civil War. Patrick and Mary Dempsey had nine children, but only two survived into adulthood. Patrick Dempsey worked as a stonemason, and surviving records suggest that the family moved through the southern states during the war years. There is no evidence that Patrick served in the Civil War. How he avoided conscription and found steady work during this period remains unclear. The record points instead to a family navigating displacement, child loss, and survival while living in active war zones, echoing the compounded hardship of famine-era migration layered onto a nation at war.

C.

June 22, 2017

Case Subjects: Patrick and James Dempsey

Research Report

In your notes on Patrick Dempsey, you wondered about his possible Civil War service. A Patrick Dempsey living in Armourdale, Kansas, was recorded on the 1889 "Enrollment of Ex-Soldiers and Sailors, their widows and orphans, of the late Armies of the United States, residing in Kansas." He was discharged as a private from Massachusetts, Company L, Regiment 8, Volunteer Infantry. He was not receiving a pension and was dependent on his son. Your Patrick Dempsey lived in Armourdale from at least 1885 to 1898, and in 1895, he lived with his daughter and son-in-law. It is possible this record refers to him or to another individual with the same name.

You had no other records indicating Patrick served in the Civil War, and questioned why he would have served from Massachusetts when he married in Washington, D.C., in 1852, was living in Covington, Allegheny County, Virginia, in 1860, and then in Jeffersonville, Clark County, Indiana, in 1870. We could find no record of a Patrick Dempsey serving in Regiment 8, Company L, Volunteer Infantry, from Massachusetts or any other state. It is possible he did serve in the Civil War, but the information in the "Kansas, Enrollment of Civil War Veterans" was not transcribed correctly. Without the correct state and unit information, it is not possible to identify which of the numerous Patrick Dempsey individuals who served in the Civil War this record is referring to.

If he did serve, he also would have been eligible to become a U.S. citizen by only filing a petition of naturalization. He would not have been required to file a declaration of intent and would not have had any residency requirements. Your Patrick Dempsey indicated he was a U.S. citizen on the 1870 census. If he served in the Civil War, he could have taken advantage of this expedited citizenship process. If so, his paperwork could be in almost any court records located anywhere from where he mustered out to Jeffersonville, Indiana. Locating such a record could be a time-consuming task. Also, citizenship petitions from this period often record only the county of origin, not a specific birthplace. We would not recommend pursuing his naturalization papers
at this time.

You also were interested in DNA matches to Cecily Agnes Dempsey, the daughter of Matthew Dempsey and Marguarite Murphy, who was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, West Riding, England, about 1880. Matthew was born in County Sligo, Ireland, about 1845. You theorized that Matthew may be related to your Dempsey family. If so, identifying where he came from in County Sligo could lead you to your Dempsey family origins.

We researched English civil registration records and the information they contained for Matthew's marriage, the birth of his children and any possible death records.
Unfortunately, these records do not contain detailed information. Before 1969, marriages did not record any information about place of origin, births did not record details of the parents' place of birth, and deaths did not record place of birth. As a result, it would not be worthwhile ordering any of these records for Matthew Dempsey or his children.

Conclusion and Suggestions for Further Research
The California death record for Cecily Dempsey McGuire may contain a place of origin for her father. An informational copy has been ordered from Sonoma County and will be forwarded to you once we have received it.

D.

Patrick Dempsey of Washington, D.C., and Armourdale, Kansas, has been inconsistently associated with Civil War service. A Patrick Dempsey living in Armourdale appeared on an 1889 Kansas enrollment of former soldiers, reporting service in Company L, 8th Massachusetts Infantry, though no such unit can be documented. No corroborating military or pension records have been found for this Patrick Dempsey.

Two other men of the same name were examined and eliminated. One Patrick Dempsey, who served with the 2nd Minnesota Infantry, died in 1895 and was buried in Leavenworth, Kansas, several years before the 1898 train accident. Another Patrick Dempsey received a Civil War pension from Washington, D.C.; his pension file establishes that he was unmarried and therefore cannot be the husband of Mary Kenney.

No civil death record has been found for Patrick Dempsey, husband of Mary Kenney. He was critically injured in a train accident in December 1898 and does not appear again in the record. By 1900, Mary Kenney Dempsey was enumerated as a widow.

E. Possible origins in Ireland

DNA matches to the family of Cecily Agnes Dempsey, daughter of Matthew Dempsey and Marguarite Murphy, suggest a possible connection to County

Sligo. Matthew Dempsey was born in County Sligo about 1845, but no direct evidence has been found to connect him to Patrick Dempsey or to identify Patrick's parents or place of origin.

About 1822 – **Born** possibly at County Sligo, in Ireland.[25]

1. _____ Dempsey was born in Ireland, possibly in County Sligo. DNA matches to Cecily Agnes Dempsey suggest this possibility. Cecily was born in Bradford, Yorkshire West Riding, England, about 1880.[26] She was the daughter of Matthew Dempsey and Marguarite Murphy.[27] Matthew was born in County Sligo about 1845.[28] If Matthew Dempsey is related to _____ Dempsey then _____ Dempsey's children may also be from County Sligo.

Possible children of an unidentified Dempsey family:

2 i. Patrick Dempsey, born in Ireland, possibly in County Sligo, about 1822; married Mary Kenny in Washington, D.C., on 30 August 1852; died sometime after he was hit by a train in Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas, on 28 December 1898.

3 ii. James Dempsey, born in Ireland in January 1830, married Hanorah Flynn in 1862; died in Washington, D.C., on 4 March 1901.

According to his descendants, James was from County Roscommon. He is included in this report because both Patrick and James appeared on a U.S. census or City Directory together in Washington, D.C. A detailed DNA analysis has yet to be conducted, but no clear DNA connection has been found so far.

[25] Baptismal records may not exist for this time period.

[26] "1881 England Census," *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com/), Sicily A. Dempsey daughter of Mathew Dempsey, Bradford, Yorkshire. She was 1 year old.

[27] "1881 England Census," *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com/), Sicily A. Dempsey daughter of Mathew Dempsey, Bradford, Yorkshire. Citation needed for mother.

[28] "1881 England Census," *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com/), Mathew Dempsey, Bradford, Yorkshire.